POL 14 VIETS

# Department of State TELEGRAM

20 (1261)

CONFIDENTIAL 888

EXCISE

PAGE 01 SAIGON 09394 01 OF 02 241117Z

4
ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,SP 02,SS 20,
GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,SAH 03,SAL 01,L 03,H 02,P 04,INR 07,
IO 21,AID 30,RSR 01./128 W

P R 2406|4Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9456
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4708
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2881
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 1219

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izenberg DATE 1/26/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 9394

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: BIO ON SAIGON WINNERS

REF: A) SAIGON 9306 B. SAIGON 9386

1. REF A (TRANSMITTED LIST OF WINNERS IN SAIGON CONSTITUENCIES I (DISTRICTS 1, 2, AND 3) AND III (DISTRICT 5, CHOLON); REF B TRANSMITTED LIST OF WINNER IN SAIGON II (DISTRICTS 4, 6,7,8, AND 9). BASIC BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON WINNERS FOLLOWS:

2. SAIGON I

A. HO NGOC CU, 23,668 VOTES--BORN IN 1924 IN SA DEC, SOUTHERN VIET-NAM, CITY COUNCILMAN FROM DISTRICT 2

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 09394 01 OF 02 241117Z

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 9394 C O N F I D E N T I A L
WHO WAS DETAINED IN 1956-58 FOR SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES, AND BANNED FROM THE 1966 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AND 1967 UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS FOR PRO-COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES. HE WAS NOT CHALLENGED IN THIS LOWER HOUSE ELECTION.

B. HO HUU TUONG, 22,624 VOTES--BORN IN 1910 IN CAN THO, SOUTHERN VIET-NAM, A WELL-KNOWN TROTSKYITE WRITER AND TEACHER WHO IS VICE RECTOR OF VAN HANH UNIVERSITY AND HAD MILITANT BUDDHIST SUPPORT DURING HIS CAMPAIGN. TUONG IS VIET-NAM'S MOST PROMINENT NEUTRALIST. HIS LIST WAS BANNED FROM THE UPPER HOUSE CAMPAIGN, BECAUSE OF "COMMUNIST OR PRO-COMMUNIST NEUTRALIST ACTIVITIES", BUT ON APPEAL HE WAS REINSTATED IN THE LOWER HOUSE RACE BY THE CENTRAL ELECTION COUNCIL. TUONG IS HIGHLY REGARDED AS AN INTELLECTUAL BUT IS A MAVERICK- IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT THE IMPACT HE WILL HAVE ON THE NEW ASSEMBLY.

C. NGUYEN HUU CHUNG, 17,065 VOTES--BORN 1939 IN BEN TRE, SOUTHERN VIET-NAM, IS A BUDDHIST CIVIL SERVANT WHO WAS A STUDENT LEADER IN THE ANTI-DIEM PERIOD ND REPRESENTED PHU BON PROVINCE IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, WHERE HE WAS SECOND VICE-SECRETARY

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 9394 C O N F I D E N T I A L
GENERAL. CHUNG IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SOUTHERN RENAISSANCE MOVEMENT AND SERVED AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TRAN VAN HUONG PRESIDENTIAL SLATE IN SAIGON (THE ONLY ELECTORAL UNIT WON BY HUONG). HE WAS ALSO RAPPORTEUR OF THE ASSEMBLY'S SPECIAL COMMITTEE WHICH RECOMMENDED INVALIDATION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. CHUNG USED THE HUONG CAMPAIGN SYMBOL IN THE CAMPAIGN, RAN WITH LY QUI CHUNG(SAIGON II) AND TRUONG VI TRI (SAIGON III), AND PROMISED TO JOIN THE OPPOSITION IF ELECTED. HE ENJOYS GIVING THE PUBLIC IMPRESSION OF AN ANGRY YOUNG MAN BUT IS RELATIVELY MODERATE, AND FRIENDLY WITH AMERICANS, IN PRIVATE.

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 09394 01 OF 02 241117Z

D. NGUYEN TRONG NHO, 14,937 VOTES -- BORN IN 1939 IN NINH BINH, NORTHERN VIET-NAM, IS A BUDDHIST MILITARY OFFICER WHO WAS AN ANTI-DIEM AND ANTI-KHANH STUDENT LEADER. NHO RAN ONE OF THE MOST MILITANTLY ANTI-GVN CAMPAIGNS IN SAIGON, PROVOKING SOME GVN HARASSMENT AND PROBABLY OBTAINING THE SUPPORT OF THE BUDDHISTS. HE HAS PLEDGED TO WORK AGAINST THE "BETRAYAL OF THE 1963 REVOLUTION".

PAGE 4 RUMJIR 9394 C O N F I D E N T I A L
SHNUK TRAN CONG QUOC, 11,921 VOTYS--BORN IN 1939 IN NAM DINH, NORTHERN VIET-NAM, IS A NAVAL OFFICER WHOSE VICTORY WAS A SURPRIUV AND ABOUT WHOM LITTLE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE THUS FAR. HE IS GOOD LOOKING AND CLEAN-CUT AND MAY HAVE OBTAINED CONSIDERABLE FEMININE VOTES FOR THAT REASON.

3. SAIGON II

A. HO VAN MINH, 19,051 VOTES--BORN IN 1936 IN BIEN HOA, SOUTHERN VIET-NAM, CATHOLIC DOCTOR WHO WAS A LEADER IN THE 1965 SUMMER ACTIVITIES PROGRAM AND THEN DIRECTOR OF THE DISTRICT 8 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN 1965 AND LEADING LIGHT IN THE EXPANSION OF THE NEW LIFE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TO DISTRICTS 6 AND 7. MINH RAN IN TANDEM WITH HO NGOC NHUAN (BELOW) AND DOAN THANH LIEM, BUT HE HAD NOT BEEN EXPECTED TO WIN BECAUSE HIS ROLE IN THE NEW LIFE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM HAD BEEN LESS VISIBLE
THE VOTERS. THE NEW LIFE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM HAS H. ) QUIET AMERICAN SUPPORT AND MINH IS FRIENDLY WITH AMERICANS AND HIGHLY REGARDED BY THEM.

B. LY QUI CHUNG AKA NGUYEN LY, 17,470 VOTES--

PAGE 5 RUMJIR 9394 C O N F I D E N T I A L
BORN 1940 IN MY THO, SOUTHERN VIET-NAM, A NOMINAL



DECLASSIFIED

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 09394 01 OF 02 241117Z

BUDDHIST, A REPORTER, AND ASSEMBLY DEPUTY FROM THIS CONSTITUENCY WHO DISPLAYED BOTH POLITICAL SKILL AND ELOQUENCE AS ASEMBLY LEADER AND SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOUTHERN RENAISSANCE BLOC. HE RAN IN THIS ELECTION WITH NGUYEN HUU CHUNG IN SAIGON I AND TRUONG VI TRI IN SAIGON III, REVEALING THE EXISTENCE OF A CHINESE PATERNAL GRANDFATHER DURING THE CAMPAIGN TO HELP HIM WITH THE CHINESE IN DISTRICT6. [ ] AND SHOWS CONSIDERABLE LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL.

C. TRAN SANH BUU, 15,630 VOTES--BORN 1925 IN KIEN HOA, SOUTHERN VIET-NAM, A FORMER DEPUTY IN THE 1959 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, COMMISSIONER IN THE VIETNAMESE CONFEDERATION OF LABOR DURING THE DIEM PERIOD, DURING WHICH HE WAS ALSO SAID TO HAVE BEEN A VIET CONG. HE WAS ELECTED FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE NEWLY-CREATED NATIONAL FORCE OF ELECTED OFFICIALS IN JUNE 1967 AND QUICKLY PUT TOGETHER AN UPPER HOUSE TICKET WHICH WAS, HOWEVER, REJECTED FRO PRO-COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES.

BUNKER

CONFIDENTIAL

Department of State

TELEGRAM

20

CONFIDENTIAL 892

PAGE 01 SAIGON 09394 02 OF 02 241039Z

4
ACTION EA 19

INFO SP 02,SS 20,GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,SAH 03,SAL 01,L 03,H 02,
P 04,INR 07,IO 21,AID 30,RSR 01,NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,
USIE 00,NSAE 00,/128 W

P R 240641Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9457
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4709
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2882
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 1220

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAIGON 9394

D. HO NGOC NHUAN, 14,947 VOTES--BORN 1935 IN MY THO, SOUTHERN VIET-NAM, A CATHOLIC, A VETERAN, AND A LONG-TIME FRIEND AND ASSOCIATE OF HO VAN MINH WHO FOUNDED WITH MINH THE DISTRICT 8 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN 1965. NHUAN IS CURRENTLY DIRECTOR OF THE NEW LIFE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN DISTRICT 8. NHUAN IS RESPECTED FOR ABILITY BY AMERICANS WHO, HOWEVER, REGARD HIM AS SOMEWHAT TOUCHY ABOUT VIETNAMES-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

E. TRAN VAN NGAN, 14,239 VOTES--BORN IN CHOLON, 1913, SOUTHERN VIET-NAM, A CITY COUNCILMAN ABOUT WHOM WE HAVE LITTLE INFORMATION.

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 9394 C O N F I D E N T I A L
F. VO VAN PHAT AKA WU WEN FA, 12,726 VOTES--BORN 1926 IN CHOLON, A CHINESE MERCHANT AND OWNER-MANAGER OF

CONFIDENTIAL

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 09394 02 OF 02 241039Z

SEVERAL MOVIE HOUSES, BUDDHIST AND MEMBER OF TAM CHAU'S WORLD BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION IN SERVICE TO SOCIETY, UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE FOR UPPER HOUSE ELECTION, SUPPORTED BY NONG-CONG-BINH.

4. SAIGON III

A. DIEP VAN HUNG, 16,386 VOTES--BORN 1932 IN HAI PHONG, NORTH VIET-NAM, IS SINO-VIENAMESE. HE IS A NOMINAL BUDDHIST, MERCHANT AND CHOLON COMMUNITY LEADER. HUNG REPRESENTS CHOLON IN BOTH THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE ASSEMBLY. [ ] HIS LEADERSHIP OF THE SUCCESSFUL OPPOSITION TO ASSEMBLY APPROVAL AU TRUONG THANH'S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY. HE CLAIMS TO HAVE NARROWLY MISSED ASSASSINATION, APPARENTLY BY THE VC, DURING CAMPAIGN.

B. HUYNH NGOC ANH, 13,806 VOTES--BORN 1930 IN VINH LONG, A CHINESE DOCTOR OF PHARMACY WHO WAS RECENTLY APPOINTED CHIEF OF CABINET IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, AND WHO WAS THE MINISTRY'S CONTACT WITH

PAGE 03 C O N F I D E N T I A L
LOCAL CHINESE SCHOOLS.

C. TANG CUU AKA TANG DAN DIEU, 13,125 VOTES--BORN IN 1934 IN CHOLON, IS A SMALL-TIME MERCHANT AND FRIEND OF DIEP VAN HUNG. HE SERVED CHOLON IN THE ASSEMBLY WITH NEITHER DISTINCTION NOR INFLUENCE.

D. TRUONG VI TRI, 11,201 VOTES--BORN 1942 IN RACH GIA, IS CHINESE AND A FRIEND OF LY GUI CHUNG (SAIGON II) AND NGUYEN HUU CHUNG (SAIGON I). HE IS A VERY RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATE.

GP-3.

BUNKER

CONFIDENTIAL

SAIGON